



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi

188 East Capitol Street, Suite 500 601-965-4480  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201 FTS 490-4480

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 8, 2008**

**BILOXI MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING TO FEDERAL MARSHALS**

DUNN LAMPTON, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, and NEHEMIAH FLOWERS, Jr., United States Marshal for the Southern District of Mississippi, announced that **BLAKE CROWELL**, of Biloxi, Mississippi, pleaded guilty today to lying to Deputy United States Marshals during their investigation of the whereabouts of a federal probationer who was wanted for violating his probation. **CROWELL** entered his guilty plea before Senior United States District Judge Walter J. Gex, III, in federal district court in Gulfport, Mississippi.

**CROWELL** was charged in August with knowingly and willfully making a false material statement to a Deputy United States Marshal, namely, that he purportedly did not know the whereabouts of the individual being sought by the Marshals whereas in truth and in fact he did know where the individual was located and concealed this information from the Marshals. The charge against **CROWELL** carries a maximum sentence of five years of imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000, and a period of supervised release of up to one year.

As described in a criminal complaint filed in the case, on July 29, 2008, two Deputy U.S. Marshals visited the location of the last known employer of the man wanted by the Marshals, where they encountered defendant **CROWELL**. Asked directly if he knew where the wanted man was living, **CROWELL** answered that he did not. A deputy marshal advised **CROWELL** that the man they were seeking was wanted by the U.S. Marshals and cautioned him that it was a violation of federal law to make a false statement to law enforcement.

Later that afternoon, as the criminal complaint states, the deputy marshals learned that the wanted man could be found at a residence in Biloxi. The deputy marshals approached the house and found defendant **CROWELL** there with the probationer who was wanted by the Marshals. When confronted with his having claimed to be unaware of where the wanted man lived, **CROWELL** admitted having lied about not knowing where he lived and that **CROWELL** had visited him there on a regular basis, at least weekly.

According to the criminal complaint, **CROWELL** also admitted that, after being questioned about the wanted man's whereabouts by the deputy marshals, **CROWELL** went to the probationer's house and told him that the Marshals were looking for him. **CROWELL's** employer later told a deputy marshal that **CROWELL** had claimed to be sick and had left work early.

Assistant United States Attorney GAINES CLEVELAND is the prosecutor in charge of the case.

Mr. LAMPTON praised the efforts of the United States Marshals Service for its diligent work in the investigation of this case.

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